D-7150

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SECRET

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

Section 2, Special Branch

REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
FILE REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 7150
62 62 35

Date ~~December 18, 1935~~

Subject Miss Barbara Miller (formerly Mrs. Little).

Made by and *Forwarded by* D.I. Ross.

Miss Barbara Miller, a citizen of the U.S.A., was born at Des Moines, Iowa, on October 10, 1902. She is a journalist by profession and arrived in Shanghai from America after making stop overs at Honolulu and Japan, some five years ago. Following her arrival here she obtained employment first with the Shanghai Times and later with the Evening Post and Mercury. In 1932 she joined the staff of the North China Daily News.

On September 20, 1930, she was married at the local British Consulate to an Englishman named J. C. Little, who at that time was employed as a draughtsman with Peach & Co., Sassoon House. Her married life was very unhappy because of her husband's drunken habits. After a few years of strifes, they mutually separated, the court giving her permission to retain her maiden name. Little, in consequence of his dissipated ways, was soon reduced to straitened circumstances, and with the assistance of the Salvation Army and the United Services Association was repatriated to England during the early part of this year.

Barbara Miller, who makes no secret of her feelings towards the U.S.S.R., took up, in order to obtain more information about that country, the study of the Russian language. In this direction she did not make much progress and has by no means a great knowledge of that tongue.

In or about 1931 she made an unsuccessful application for a passport visa to enable her to proceed to Moscow where she hoped to obtain employment as a school teacher. The application naturally was refused when it was disclosed that she was going to Russia in quest of work.

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File No.....

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

.....Station,

REPORT

Date.....19

Subject.....

Made by.....Forwarded by.....

In April, 1934, she resigned from the North China Daily News and proceeded to Los Angeles. Shortly after arrival she was engaged by the Los Angeles Times - one of the most conservative newspapers in America - as a space writer. In this capacity she worked until the Autumn of 1935 when she left San Francisco ostensibly bound for Singapore on board the s.s. "Corneville," but on the vessel's arrival in Shanghai on October 14, she decided to break her journey and stay here. Through her own efforts she succeeded in obtaining work as a proof reader with the *Tass News Agency, 20 Canton Road, where she is still employed. She still entertains the idea of proceeding to the U.S.S.R. and she hopes that by working for and assisting Tass, she will be able to secure through them passport facilities for the U.S.S.R.

*V. [illegible]

While it is common knowledge that she entertains radical leanings, she is definitely not a communist. She is at present occupying room 622 in the Hamilton House.

D B Ross
D. I.

Deputy Commissioner (Special Branch).

S2
Please give copy to "A"
JHG 12 DEC 1935

D.S.B.
~~Copy handed to A. by D.S.S. Henchman.~~ DBR 14/12.

File
JHG
14 DEC 1935

C O P Y

Mis. 22/36.
Central Station.
Jan. 14, 1936.

FURTHER TO:
Suspected attempted suicide by Mrs. Barbara Miller, American citizen.

Made by D.S.I. Ovsiannikoff.

Furthe to my report of January 10th, 1936 re suspected attempted suicide by Mrs. Barbara Miller, I beg to state that she has recovered now in the General Hospital from the effects of poisoning by Allonal. On the morning of January 13th 1936, she became conscious consequently at 2.15 p.m. Mr. E. L. Faupel, U.S. Marshal for China, and the undersigned visited her in the hospital. When questioned by Mr. E.L. Faupel, Mrs. B. Miller denied the attempt on her part to commit suicide.

According to her statement she has been suffering for sometime from insomnia and on the night of January 8th before retiring to her bed she took several tablets of Allonal hoping that the same would help her to sleep. After a few hours, as she did not feel any effect of the doze taken, she took another quantity which had the necessary effect of sending her to sleep. It appears from enquiries that she has been in the habit of taking Allonal before retiring to bed.

C O P Y

Misc. 22/36.
Central Station
January 10, 1936.

Suspected attempted suicide by Mrs. Barbara Miller, American citizen.

Made by D.S.I. Ovsiannikoff.

At 8.59 a.m. on January 10th a telephone message was received at the station from C.C.R. to the effect that a foreign woman evidently suffering from poisoning was conveyed by the Fire Brigade ambulance from the Hamilton House to the General Hospital. At 9.10a.m. same date the undersigned and C.D.S. 36 Soong Yuen Leu visited the Hamilton Apartment House, 6th floor, where it was ascertained that Mrs. M. E. Roope, manageress of the said apartment, called the ambulance at 8.56 a.m. same date to take Mrs. Barbara Miller, American citizen, to the General Hospital as she was found in the room No. 622 occupied by her lying on bed unconscious. It was believed by Mrs. M. E. Roope that Mrs. B. Miller was suffering from poisoning. On receipt of the above information the detectives visited the American Consulate-General and reported the matter to Mr. E. L. Faupel, U.S. Marshal for China.

At 9.25 a.m. Mr. E. L. Faupel accompanied the detectives to the Hamilton House and in presence of Mrs. M. E. Roope the room occupied by Mrs. B. Miller was searched.

One small empty bottle formerly containing 12 tablets of Allonal "Roche" was found by Mrs. M.E. Roope in an open suit case, of Mrs. Miller, where it was lying on the top of clothing. One envelope containing a check book of the American Express Coy. and addressed to Mr. James Porritt was found by the undersigned in a wardrobe. Several personal letters and passport No. 14428 issued to Mrs. Barbara Miller in San Francisco were also found in the room. The passport shows that Mrs. B. Miller was born on Oct. 10 1902 in San Mateo.

Iowa, U.S.A. and journalist by profession.

The above documents were taken by Mr. E. L. Faupel to the American Consulate-General. One pillow case and 2 bed sheets covered with stains (evidently body excretions) together with the empty bottle of Allonal were removed by the undersigned to the Detective Office. From inquiries made among the servants of the house it was ascertained that Mrs. B. Miller was seen by house boy No. 11 named Ying Ah Zeh(应阿才) at about 5 p.m. on January 8th when she returned to her room from town. At about 12 m.n. January 8th she was seen again coming up to her room returning from town by houseboy No. 7 Loh Nan Jih(陆南侍). She came up to night porter named Kiang Yoeh Awen(江月民) in the Reception Room on the 6th floor and told him not to disturb her on the next morning.

At 12.30 p.m. on January 9th the house boy No.11 Ying Ah Zeh knocked at the door of room No. 622 as he intended to enter and clean the same. After failing to get any response to his knocking he opened the door with his key and entered the room. He found Mrs. B. Miller asleep and without disturbing her left the room.

At 3 p.m. same date he again entered the room with intention of bring in a plumber to fix up a water tap in the bath room. In view of the fact that Mrs. B. Miller was still sleeping he again left the room without disturbing her.

At about 6.50 p.m. a certain Mr. Russell telephoned to Mrs. B. Miller but as she instructed the house boys not to disturb her the telephone operator told the gentleman in question that he had been instructed not to disturb her.

At 7.30 p.m. the house boy No. 5 Woo Fong Fah(吴方法) entered the room No. 622 to deliver the said message to Mrs. B. Miller. He also found her asleep and after

leaving the message on a table left the room without disturbing the occupant of the room.

At 8.15 a.m. the house boy No. 11 Ying Ah Leh reported to Mrs. M. E. Roope that the occupant of room 622 was asleep since the night of January 8 and that she did not ring the bell to call any servant at all during the day of January 9th. After receiving the above report Mrs. M. E. Roope immediately sent No. 1 boy named Sung Zeu Ching (宋子清) to see if there was something wrong with Mrs. B. Miller.

Sung Zeu Ching on entering the room tried to wake up Mrs. B. Miller and after failing to get any reply from her, he informed manageress of the house. Mr. M.E. Roope after being told that Mrs. B. Miller was evidently unconscious entered the room, called the ambulance and sent Mrs. B. Miller to hospital.

From further inquiries made it appears that Mrs. B. Miller arrived in Shanghai from America sometime prior to October 31, 1935. On the last mentioned date she rented a room in the Hamilton House and since that time was residing there. She is employed at present by the Shanghai Times as space writer.

From inquiries in the General Hospital it was ascertained that on arrival there Mrs. B. Miller was attended by Dr. G. Chambers. At about 10 a.m. same date Mr. J. B. Porritt, merchant, room 26, 24 The Bund called at the General Hospital and requested the sister in-charge to remove Mrs. B. Miller to 1st class accomodations. He signed the papers undertaking payment for the hospital expenses. The doctor's chit states:-

"This is to certify that I have examined Mrs. Barbara Miller and found that she is suffering from narcotic poisoning. Her condition is serious."

G. Chambers.
Resident Medical Superintendent.

A copy of the above report is required by Mr. E.L. Faupel, U.S. Marshal for China.

FM 2
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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. 7150
2-36.

Section 2, Special Branch. Station.

REPORT

Date February 14, 1936.

Subject Suspected attempted suicide of Miss Barbara Miller.

Made by and Forwarded by D. I. Ross

Miss Barbara Miller, who forms the subject of file D.7150, was admitted to the General Hospital on January 10, 1936 in an unconcious condition suffering from the effects of an overdose of Allonal. Following her recovery on January 13, she was visited and questioned by Mr. E. L. Faupel, U.S. Marshal for China. Apart from admitting that she had been in the habit of taking Allonal as a sedative for insomnia, she strongly denied that she had attempted to commit suicide.

She was discharged from hospital on January 18 and returned to her flat No. 622, Hamilton House.

Prior to entering the hospital she was on the staff of the Shanghai Times. It appears that Miss Miller had severed connections with the Tass News Agency sometime ago in consequence of the long hours she was compelled to work for which she was poorly paid in return.

As her health had suffered considerably owing to the continued use of drugs, she was prevailed upon by certain of her intimate friends to take a holiday in order to recuperate, and in this connection she sailed for the United States (Los Angeles) in the "General Sherman" on February 4, 1936.

A copy of Central Stk. Mis. Report No 22/36, bearing on this matter is attached herewith. DBR

D. B. Ross
D. I.

Deputy Commissioner (Special Branch)

DC (Crime)
Information
Thos Robertson
A.C.P.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
15 FEB 1936
CRIME BRANCH

FILE
7.2

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT
D 7150
20 3 36

The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury, Thursday, March 19, 1936

Barbara Miller Back In California, Plans Feminine China Book

When Miss Barbara Miller of Shanghai and Los Angeles returned to America from the Far East recently, she netted considerable publicity including photographs in both the Chronicle and the Examiner of San Francisco, with captions stating that she plans a book on the Orient from the "feminine angle."

The Examiner's shipping column also contained the following note on Miss Miller:

"The Sabbath brought in the General Sherman from the Orient, and with it MISS BARBARA MILLER, a Los Angeles lass who, speaking of diplomas, got hers at Stanford a while back and has since busied herself in collecting Far Eastern material for a book that will discuss the Orient from what Miss Miller terms the feminine angle.

"You got the boys there, Miss Miller."

FILE